JOLIET SIGNAL.

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THE
JOLIET SIGNAL.

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For the Signal.

MEMORY.

When backward through the lapse of years
O'er memory's path I stray,
How oft I find but "founts of tears,"
Along the wasted way.

I turn to childhoods's happy days,
But what a fleeting dream;
A sunny speck amid the gloom
Floating upon life's stream.

Yet still, I love that hallowed spot,
My heart-strings 'round it cling,
For 'tis mingled with the memories
Of many a cherished scene.

And is the phantom surely past,
That thus enchain'd the mind?
Like summer clouds that gild the sky,
Leaving but shade behind.

Ah! yes, 'tis truly past,
Those golden days are o'er,
And swiftly steals life's troubled bark
Unto the silent shore.

Oh! may it anchor there
Upon that peaceful shore;
Where all life's anxious cares are hush'd
And parting is no more.

ELLEN.

Channahon, April 8th, 1847.

THE SOFT ANSWER.

BY T. S. ARTHUR.

"I'll give him law to his heart's content, the scoundrel!" said Singleton, walking backward and forward, in an angry state of excitement.

"Don't call harsh names, Mr. Singleton," said lawyer Trueman, looking up from the mess of papers before him, and smiling in a quiet, benevolent way, that was peculiar to him.

"Every man should be known by his true name. Williams is a scoundrel, and so he ought to be called," responded the client, with increasing warmth.

"Did you ever do a reasonable thing in your life when you were angry?" asked Mr. Trueman, whose age & respectability gave him the license to speak thus freely to his young friend, for whom he was endeavoring to arrange some business difficulty with former partner.

"I can't say that I ever did, Mr. Trueman, but now I have good reason for being angry, and the language I use in reference to Williams, is but the expression of a sober and rational conviction," replied Singleton, a little more calmly.

"Did you pronounce him a scoundrel before you received this reply to your last letter?' asked Mr. Trueman.

"No, I did not; but that letter confirmed my previously formed impressions of his character."

"But I cannot find, in that letter, any evidence proving your late partner to be a dishonest man. He will not agree to your proposed mode of settlement, because he does not see it to be the most proper way."

"He won't agree to it, because it is an honest, an equitable mode of settlement, that is all! He wants to over-reach me, and is determined to do so if he can!" responded Mr. Singleton, still excited.

"There you are decidedly wrong," said the lawyer. "You have both allowed yourselves to become angry, and are both unreasonable; and if I must speak plainly, I think you are the most unreasonable, in the present case. Two angry men can never settle any business properly. You have unnecessarily increased the difficulties in the way of a speedy settlement, by writing Mr. Williams an angry letter, which he has responded to in the like unhappy temper. Now, if I am to settle this business for you, I must write all letters that pass to pass to Mr. Williams, in future."

"But how can you express my views & feelings!"

"That I do not wish to do, if your views and feelings are to remain as they now are; for anything like an adjustment of the difficulties, under such circumstances, I should consider hopeless," replied Mr. Trueman.

"Well, let me answer this letter, and after that I promise that you shall have your own way.

"No, I shall consent to no such thing. It is the reply to that letter which is to modify the negotiation for a settlement, in such a way as ty bring success or failure, and I have no idea of allowing you, in the present state of your mind, to write such an one as will most assuredly defeat an amicable adjustment."

Singleton paused for some time before making a reply. He had been forming in his mind a most cutting and bitter rejoinder to the letter just alluded to, and he was very desirous that Mr. Williams sho'd have the benefit of knowing that he tho't him a "trickey and deliberate scoundrel," with other opinions of a similar character. He found it, therefore, impossible to make up his mind to let the unimpassioned Mr. Trueman write this most important epistle.

"Indeed, I must write this letter, Mr. Trueman," he said. "There are some things that I want to say to him, which I know you won't write. You don't seem to consider the position in which he has placed me by that letter, nor what is obligatory upon me, as a man of honor. I never allow any man to reflect upon me, directly or indirectly, without a prompt response."

"There is, in the Bible" said Mr. Trueman, "a passage that is peculiarly applicable in the present case. It is this—"A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." I have found this precept, in a life that has numbered more than double your years, to be one that may be safely and honorably adopted, in all cases. You blame Mr. Williams for writing you an angry letter, and are indignant at certain expressions contained therein. Now, is it any more right for you to write an angry letter, with cutting epithets, than it is for him?"

"But, Mr. Trueman"——

"I do assure you my young friend," said the lawyer, interrupting him, "that I am acting in this case for your benefit, and not for my own; and, as your legal adviser, you must submit to my judgment, or I cannot consent to go on."

"If I will promise not to use any harse language, will you not consent to let me write the letter?" urged the client.

"You and I, in the present state of your mind, could not possibly come at the same conclusion in reference to what is harsh and what is mild," said Mr. Trueman; "therefore I cannot consen: that you shall write one word of the proposed reply—I *must* write it."

"Well, I suppose, then, I shall have to submit. When will it be ready?"

"Come this afternoon, and I will give you the draft which you can copy and sign."

In the afternoon, Mr. Singleton came, and received the letter prepared by Mr. Trueman. It ran thus, after the date and formal address—

"I regret that my proposition did not meet your approbation. The mode of settlement which I suggested was the result of a careful consideration of our mutual interests. Be kind enough to suggest to Mr. Trueman, my lawyer, any plan which you think will lead to an early and amicable adjustment of our business. You may rely upon my consent to it, if it meets his approbation.

"Is it possible, Mr. Trueman, that you expect *me* to sign such a cringing letter as that?" said Mr. Singleton throwing it down, and walking backward and forward with great irritation of manner.

"Well, what is your objection to it?" replied Mr Trueman, mildly, for he was prepared for such an exhibition of feeling.

"Objection! How can you ask such a question! Am I to go on my knees to him and beg him to do me justice? No! I'll sacrifice every cent I've got in the world first, the scoundrel!"

"You wish to have your business settled do you not?" asked Mr. Trueman, looking him steadily in the face.

"Of course I do—*honorably* settled!"

"Well let me hear what you mean by an honorable settlement."

"Why, I mean"——

The young man hesitated a moment, and Mr. Trueman said:

"You mean a settlement in which your interest shall be equally considered with that of Williams."

"Yes, certainly, and that."——

"And that," continued Mr. Trueman, Mr. Williams in the settlement shall consider and treat you as a gentleman?"

"Certainly I do; but that is more than he has done."

"Well, never mind. Let what is past go for as much as it is worth. The principal point of action is in the present."

"But I'll never send that mean cringing letter though."

"You mistake its whole tenor, I do assure you, Mr. Singleton. You have allowed your angry feelings to blind you.—You certainly carefully considered before you adopted it, the proposed basis of a settlement, did you not."

"Of course I did."

"So the letter I have prepared for you states. Now as an honest and honorable man, you are, I am sure, willing to grant to him the same privilege which you asked for yourself, viz: that of proposing a plan of settlement. Your proposition does not seem to please him; now it is but fair to state how he wishes the settlement to be made—and in giving such an invitation, a gentleman should use gentlemanly language."

"But he don't deserve to be treated like a gentleman. In fact he has no claim to the title," said the young man.

"If he has none, as you say, *you* profess to *be* a gentleman, and all gentlemen sho'd prove by their actions and words that they are *gentle*-men."

"I can't say that I am convinced by what you say; but, as you seem to be bent on having it your own way, why, here, let me copy the thing and sign it," said the young man, suddenly changing his manner.

"There, now," he added, passing across the table the brief letter he had copied, "I suppose he'll think me a low spirited-fellow after he gets that; but he's mistaken. After its all over, I'll take good care to tell him that it did not contain my sentiments."

Mr. Trueman smiled, as he took the letter, and went to fold and direct it.

"Come to-morrow afternoon, and I think we'll have things in a pretty fair way," he said, looking up with his usual pleasant smile, as he finished the direction of the letter.

"Good afternoon Mr. Singleton," he said as that gentleman entered his office on the succeeding day.

"Good afternoon," responded the young man. "Well, have you heard from that milk-and-water letter of yours? I can't call it mine."

"Yes, here is the answer. Take a seat, and I will readit to you," said the old gentleman.

"Well, let's hear it."

"Dear George: I have your kind and gentlemanly note of yesterday, in reply to my harsh, unreasonable, and ungentlemanly one of the day before. We have both been playing the fool; but you are ahead of me in becoming sane. I have examined, since I got your note, more carefully the tenor of your disposition for a settlement, and it meets my views precisely. My foolish anger kept me from seeing it before. Let our mutual friend, Mr. Trueman, arrange, the matter according to the plan mentioned, and I shall most heartily acquiesce,

Yours, &c.. "THOS. WILLIAMS."

"He never wrote that letter in the world!" exclaimed Singleton, starting to his feet.

"You know his writing, I presume," said Mr. Trueman, handing him the letter.

"It's Thomas Williams' own hand, as I live!" ejaculated Singleton, on glancing at the letter. "My old friend, Thomas Williams, the best natured fellow in the world!" he continued, his feelings undergoing a sudden and entire revolution.—"What a fool I have been!"

"And what a fool *I* have been!" said Thomas Williams, advancing from an adjoining room, at the same time extending his hand towards Singleton.

"God bless you, my dear friend!" exclaimed Singleton, grasping his hand.—"Why, what has been the matter with us both?"

"My young friends," said old Mr. Trueman, one of the kindest-hearted men in the world, rising and advancing towards them, "I have known you long, and have always esteemed you both. This pleasant meeting and reconciliation, you perceive, is of my arrangement. Now, let me give you a precept that will make friends and keep friends. It has been my motto through life, and I don't know that I have an enemy in the world. It is:

"A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.

Planting New Residences.

Every man who builds a new house on a new spot of ground, at the same time that he suits his taste, suffers the serious inconvenience for a few years of want of large shade trees and of plenty of fine fruit. He must wait till the trees can grow; but if this period may be reduced to less than one half its usual length, most men would certainly hail the means for its accomplishment with great pleasure. If fruit trees which often stand for ten or twelve years without yielding much, can be made to produce considerable crops in five, a great object would be attained. Having had some little experience in this matter, we propose to offer a few hints.

Trees should be set out as soon as possible after the ground is selected, in order that they may be growing. But nothing is gained by transplanting them before the ground is prepared for them. We have set out trees on land which had been simply plowed and made mellow, and where manure could not be well applied and intermixed afterwards by plowing and harrowing. The consequence was that trees of the same size at the time of transplanting, set out two years afterwards on properly prepared ground outstripped the first in three years. In all irregular planting or where horse cultivation cannot afterwards be constantly kept up, by the arrangement of the trees in rows, the soil should be previously prepared in the very best manner, by plowing and trench plowing, and by the thorough intermixture of manure at the same time. The ground will be better fitted for the purpose if previously prepared by the cultivation of root crops for the more thorough admixture of the applied manure; but this should not occasion delay in planting trees, as numerous harrowings will accomplish the same object very well especially if the manure be short. Ground thus well prepared, and proper care afterwards, are far more important than setting out of trees of a large size.

A tree of moderate size is less checked in growth by removal, and will, as a consequence, outstrip a large tree, provided it receives proper care. The mode of producing immediate plantations of large trees, removing those already six inches to foot in diameter, first adopted on a large scale, by Henry Stuart of Scotland, obtained considerable favor in moist climate though wholly unadapted to this country. But Loudon, who had experience pledged himself to produce a fine and thrifty plantation of large trees in less time by employing trees of moderate size, placed on deeply trenched and highly enriched soil, kept under good cultivation; several years being required to overcome the stunted and sickly appearance produced in the large trees.

Before concluding these remarks, we wish to urge one point, so important, that if repeated three hundred times a year, would not be too often if it would accomplish by that means the desired object.—This is the thorough and constant cultivation of the soil for several years after young trees are set out. If they are to stand in grass, which should be avoided if possible, a circle at least six feet in diameter should be kept spaded mellow around each tree, and no grass or weeds allowed to grow within the circle.—*Cultivator.*

During previous years the importation of grain into England from Ireland has been upwards of 24,000,000 bushels; but this year Ireland will need of England 24,000,000 bushels; making a difference to England of 48,000,000 bushels. He says there is no question that 4,000,000 of people in Ireland are in starving circumstances; and though small contributions will do good, yet the amount of relief which is necessary to meet the exigencies of the case, is almost beyond calculation. Allowing these 4,000,000 a pound of flour or Indian meal a day, it will require about 200 tons a day, or nearly 1,000,000 bushels per week; and at the same rate, if the supply must be six months, it will require 26,000,000 bushels of grain—Twenty-six Million of bushels!! It is perfectly terrific to think of such a destitution.

Our informant further states, that not money, but Indian corn or Indian meal should be sent, in preference to flour. The reason he assigns is, that meal can be most easily converted into porridge; and that thousands of families in Ireland have but one cooking utensil, and this is a pot, in which they have been accostomed to boil their only food, their potatoes. This utensil has been handed down from parent to child, it may be for numerous successive generations.

That Great Britain is not alone in her lack of grain, is evident from the fact that France was a buyer in the English markets until the advance in breadstuffs compelled her to seek elswhere for a supply.

It is a question of immense practical interest—What has occasioned this dearth of food in Europe—particularly in Great Britain? It is not that their territories are so contracted, or their soil so densely covered with inhabitants. Every traveller in France or Great Britain will be struck with the immense quantity of land that lies waste, or is devoted to purposes of ornament or amusement. The parks hunting grounds of the nobilty and gentry of Great Britain, if cultivated by the starving peasantry of the country, would furnish food to feed millions of hungry mouths.

President Everett, in his late speech in Faneuil Hall, intimated his apprehension that the whold frame work of society might be broken up by this terrible famine in Ireland. *If* it should break up the monopoly of nobility—the necessity which is laid on the millions to toil and starve in order to support in boundless luxury a court and a titled nobility—if it should do this without violence and blood-shed, this famine, dire as it is, would be the richest boon that Great Britain ever received at the hand of a Gracious Providence.
—*Boston Traveller.*

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM VERA CRUZ!

Surrender of the City!
AND OF
THE CASTLE
OF
San Juan d'Ulloa!!

☞By the arrival, late last night, of the fast running steamer Hard Times, five days from New Orleans, we received an extra from the office of the the New Orleans Evening Mercury of the 3d inst., containing the following glorious intelligence:— *St. Louis Reveille.*

The U. S. steamer *Princeton*, Captain Frederick Engle, touched at the south-west Pass on the morning of the 2d, in eighty-two hours from Vera Cruz. Midshipman Stone, of the Raritan, Mr. Gideon, late of the Potomac, and Mr. McIlvaine, late Captain's Clerk of the Princeton, were taken off by the tow boat Hercules, and from them we have the following highly important intelligence.

Gen. Scott, having completed his entrenchments on the 22d ult., his line, nine miles in length, completely surrounding the city, opened his batteries, consisting of nine mortars, four 24-pounders and two 10-inch howetzers, at about four o'clock, on the afternoon of that day. The city and castle commenced firing shot and shell from the moment our troops were discovered taking position, and the firing between both parties, from the time our batteries opened until the night of the 25th, was heavy and uninterrupted. On the 24th in particular, the damage done to the city was immense. A battery of two 32-pounders, and four 68-pounders, from the squadron, manned by seamen, and commanded by officers from the squadron, was placed directly in the rear of the city on the evening of the 22d, and opened its fire on the morning of the twenty-third.—This battery told with such powerful effect that of the twelve batteries of the enemy surrounding the city, five were directed to it, without having the least effect in dampening the ardor of those who worked it. It was mounted by one hundred and fifty seamen, and commanded by five or six officers, the party being relieved every twenty-four hours, from the squadron, and it is unizersally admitted that no guns in our whole line were worked with better effect. This, however, is not the only participation of our gallant navy in the siege.

On the evening of the 22d what is termed the Mosquito fleet, consisting of the steamer Spitfire, Capt. Tatnall, and Vixen, Capt. Sands, and schooners Petrel, Lieut. Shaw; Boniba, Lieut. Benham; Reefer, Lieut. Sterrett; Tampico, Lieut. W. P. Griffin; and Falcon, Lieutenent Glasson, each vessel having one heavy gun, and commanded by Capt. Tatnall, moved up from the anchorage at Sacrificios, on the afternoon of the 22d, and took position on the extreme right of our line, close in shore, and commenced firing shot and sheil into the city. They retained this position until the morning of the 23d, when they got under way and stood within about one-quarter of a mile of the Castle, at a point to the north of the Washerwoman shoal, so that both castle and city were within reach of their guns. They remained in this position during two or three hours' firing alternately into the city and castle, and notwithstanding the continued fire of shell and shot from that point of the enemy's defences, and from Fort Santiago, at the southern extremity of the city, not a life was lost, a wound received, or one of the vessels injured.

At the expiration of two or three hours the fleet was recalled, but during the period it was engaged it did much destruction to the city, and annoyed the castle considerably by throwing shell into it.

During the 26th an extremely violent norther blew, and the fire on both sides was suspended during the whole day, and from our batteries on the 25th being so destructive to the city the people clamored for a surrender. Morales, the Governor, having declared his intention never to surrender while it was possible to fire a gun, was deposed, and Landero elected in his stead; and on the morning of the 27th a flag of truce was sent with an offer to surrender the city by itself, to which Gen. Scott replied that he could take both city and castle, and that he would accept only the surrender of both. The flag of truce returned, but during the day negotiations were again opened by the enemy, which ultimated in the surrender of BOTH THE CITY AND CASTLE!!

Without entering into the details of the terms, it will for the present be sufficient to state that the garrison surrendered, numbering in all about one thousand men, prisoners of war, and the city and castle were delivered to us on condition that they should be prisoners in their present condition until the difficulties between the two governments are settled by a trat of peace. The troops delivered up their arms and were permitted to retire into the interior on condition of not serving against us again during the war. The 29th was fixed upon as the day upon which our army should take possession, and on the morning of that day Gen. Scott, with Worth and his division, accompanied be the officers of the army and a large representation from the squadron, entered and took possession, the enemy at the same time marched out. As the American flag was hoisted at the plaza, and over San Juan de Ulloa, salutes were fired simultaneously from the castle, the batteries of the city and squadron. Gen. Scott immediately took up his quarters in the palace, and invested Gen. Worth with the command of the city, as Governor, at the same time the command of the castle to Col. Belton, that of Fort Jago, at the southern extremity of the city, to Maj. Wright, and that of Fort Conception, at northern extremity, to Major Scott.

The smallness of our loss during the siege, is wonderful; and including Capts. Alburtis, and Vinton, of the army, and Midshipman Shubrick of the Mississippi, the latter of whom was killed while employed in the naval battery, in the rear of the city, our whole loss in killed is only 17, and in wonded 28. That of the enemy's garrison our informant did not learn, but understood that Gen, Valdez was among the killed. The loss among non combatants has unfortunately been very great. The number of woman and children killed is varicusly stated at from 500 to 2,000.

The enemy assigns as a reason for the early capitulation, a desire to spare the blood of non-combatants, and because they were out of provisions, both in the city and the castle. Several of the inhabitants of the city stated, after its surrender, tat there was a month's provisions there, but however this may be, after the terms of capitulation had been agreed upon, Gen. Scott, on being informed of the scarcity of provisions in the city, sent in four day' supplies for their relief.

Commodore Perry, during the siege, was extreamely strict in preventing any intercourse between the foreign vessels of war and the enemy, and General Scott refused to afford the British and French consuls an opportunity of leaving the city when they found the fire becoming a little too warm for their safety, as they had refused to avail themselves of his first notification for all foreign residents to leave the city.

The destruction to the city is great. Fully one-third of it is in ruins.

During the siege, Col. Harney, with 150 dragoons and two pieces of artillery,